

With regard to land issues, the SMSC on September 2, 1997 petitioned the government to transfer 593 acres of fee land located adjacent to the Tribe's reservation into reservation trust status. The Department by letter dated October 7, 1998 refused to do so. Therefore, the Department likewise provided no favorable treatment to SMSC on land issues.

In March and April 1999 counsel for SMSC cooperated with the Independent Counsel's office to schedule the interviews of the three SMSC Business Council members and approximately five of the various current and former employees of SMSC. Assurance from the Independent Counsel's office was received that the individuals who were sought to be interviewed were viewed as witnesses and not as subjects or targets of the investigation, and those interviews were scheduled and took place in both Washington, D.C., and Minneapolis, Minnesota.

On April 1, 1999, a subpoena was issued to Stanley R. Crooks, Chairman of SMSC, to testify before the Grand Jury on April 21, 1999. On April 22, 1999, a subpoena was issued to Kurt V. BlueDog, to testify before the Grand Jury on May 19, 1999. Both gentlemen did testify before the Grand Jury. Mr. BlueDog testified on three occasions.

In May and June 1999, counsel for SMSC cooperated with the Independent Counsel's office to respond to inquiries about documents the Independent Counsel's office felt needed explanation or supplementation and to schedule additional interviews of SMSC former employees.

On October 13, 1999, counsel for SMSC received correspondence from the Independent Counsel's office stating that the Office of Independent Counsel had